IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1-14. (Cancelled).

15. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving image information, wherein the image information includes a code to indicate whether the image information is permitted to be output;

control means for controlling storage and output of the image information;

storage means for storing, according to control by said control means, the image information received by said receiving means; and

output means for outputting the image information received by said receiving means in accordance with the code in the image information,

wherein said control means controls said storage means so that the image information output by said output means is not retained in said storage means after the image information is output by said output means.

16. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information via said output means,

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wherein when said discriminating means discriminates a first mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, sets said storage means so that the image information stored in said storage means can be overwritten, and controls said output means to output the stored image information, and

when said discriminating means discriminates a second mode among the modes, said control means controls said output means to output the image information received by said received means without storing the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means.

17.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

discriminating means for discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information via said output means,

wherein when said discriminating means discriminates a first mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, sets said storage means so that the image information stored in said storage means can be overwritten, and controls said output means to output the stored image information, and

when said discriminating means discriminates a second mode among the modes, said control means stores the image information received by said receiving means in said storage means, controls said output means to output the stored image information, and erases the image information stored in said storage means after said output means outputs the stored image information.

18.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

19.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

20.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

21.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said discriminating means discriminates among modes based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

22.   (New) An image processing apparatus connectable to an image output apparatus, comprising:

determining means for determining an output mode used by said image output apparatus to output image data;

conversion means for converting a format of the image data in accordance with the output mode determined by said determining means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the image data converted by said conversion means.

23. (New) An image communication apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said conversion means converts the format of the image data to a bitmap format in accordance with the output mode determined by said determining means.

24. (New) A method for controlling an image processing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

receiving image information, wherein the image information includes a code to indicate whether the image information is permitted to be output;

storing the image information in storage, subject to a predetermined information storage control regime; and

outputting the image information received in the receiving step in accordance with the code in the image information,

wherein said controlling regime includes controlling so that the image information output in said outputting step is not retained in the storage after the image information is output in said outputting step.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of:

discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information in said outputting step,

wherein when a first mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the storage is set so that the image information stored in the storage can be overwritten, and the stored image information is output, and

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when a second mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received by said received means is output without storing the image information in the storage.

26. (New) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of:

discriminating among modes used in outputting the image information in said outputting step,

wherein when a first mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the storage is set so that the image information stored in the storage can be overwritten, and the stored image information is output, and

when a second mode is discriminated among the modes in said discriminating step, the image information received in said receiving step is stored in the storage, the stored image information is output, and the image information stored in the storage is erased after being output.

27. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein in said discriminating step, modes are discriminated based on whether a fee is charged for the image information.

28. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein in said discrimination step, modes are discriminated based on an instruction from an image information transmitter.

29.   (New) A method for controlling an image processing apparatus connectable to an image output apparatus, said method comprising the steps of:

determining an output mode used by said image output apparatus to output image data;

converting a format of the image data in accordance with the output mode determined in the determining step; and

transmitting the image data converted in the converting step.

30.   (New) A method according to claim 29, wherein the conversion step converts the format of the image data to a bitmap format in accordance with the output mode determined in the determining step.